

Uncertainty and Chaos in Indian Farming

Production, Livelihood and Income

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About the Authors



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Prof. D. Das Gupta

Former Vice-Chancellor

Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya

Foreword

Uncertainty in Indian farming has become its most challenging aspect to deal with. Around 130 million holdings are operating in Indian agriculture and a close to 90 percent of which are small, marginal and fragmented as well. Mostly managed in an open air rained conditions, it has relentlessly been exposed to weather and resource uncertainties, market volatility, and poor accessibility to technology. The farmers have to depend on a fragile input delivery mechanism and cryptic supply chain functioning. The elements of uncertainties have got compounding impact on their mere survival. It's a common phenomenon when there has been good harvest, markets remain non responsive and, as a result, the farmers are deprived of an expected return. With the brunt of global warming and climate change, the problem has become more complex and non linear. Since agriculture here in India is managed mostly by private owners of land, the issues of food security and livelihood stand paramount and humongous.

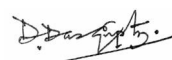
The wide areas covered in this book *inter alia* include psychic chaos, elements of uncertainty in Indian context. Theoretical concept includes needful operating and empirical concepts apart from applicable social entropy. The volume is based on empirical study with sound methodology applicable leading to policy decisions/implications. The acumen and commendable initiative of the senior author of this book is well understood. He has aptly orchestrated with other co-authors of alien orientation in such a huge task in much magisterial style.

The book, *Uncertainty and Chaos in Indian farming: Production, livelihood and income*, authored by Sankar Kr Acharya, Swagata Patra and A B Sharangi, has made an honest and innovative endeavour to empirically elicit and estimate farmers' perception on uncertainties they are confronting with. All the authors deserve praise and congratulations for such a stunning, well researched, fact filled and eloquent presentation. This persistent uncertainties being seamlessly inflicted into the psychic ecology of millions may lead to a socio-ecological chaos

and disaster. I find the book is of huge research and policy implication to the intellectuals and scholars of social sciences across the disciplines in India and abroad.

The Publisher is also to be thanked for finishing this piece of work efficiently. Without any hesitation I do wish more similar publications to come out of the able and matured leadership of Professor Acharya in years to come.

Santiniketan
25th Decembe, 2022



(D. Dasgupta)

Preface

Indian agriculture at large has been on the trajectory of grand uncertainty. The brunts of climate change, sharp undulation in productivity, unpredictability in market price, the consistent up rise in cost of cultivation and downfall of net return are amounting to what we may call the grand uncertainty. Uncertainty is an inevitable character of any system where most of the contributory factors are either unpredictable or unfathomable. The higher is the complexity, the lesser would be the resilience, and, higher would be the uncertainty. Agricultural production system, as it is managed in Indian condition, is the most vulnerable to a plethora of uncertainties. Mostly managed in an open air rain fed conditions, complex-diverse-risk prone, it has been exposed to weather and resource uncertainties, market volatility, poor access to technology and a fragile input delivery mechanism. Indian Agriculture is now at a crossroad and gets confronted by uncertainty and unpredictability. The growth rate of food production runs just marginally above population growth. The book has uniquely dealt with a basket of perceived uncertainties that makes farmers and economy reel under stress and risk. The world's largest agrarian economy is being managed mostly by private land owners, who are mostly under the clutch of middlemen and vagaries of weather. The book, based on an empirical study, has indentified the marker variables of farmers in responding to and complying with the uncertainty, unpredictability and freaks of social dynamics.

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Contents

Foreword *vii*

Preface *ix*

1. Introduction 1

2. Literature and Citations 5

3. Concept and Theory 15

4. Social Ecology 27

5. Methods of Inquiry 49

6. The Case Study 63

7. Summary and Conclusion 103

8. Limitations and Future Scope 111

9. Bibliography 113

Annexure 117

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